



LARC



Volume 53, Number 09

September 2013

President's Message

In early August NASA published on their News Website an article concerning the Solar Magnetic Pole Reversal that is currently underway, (<http://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/the-suns-magnetic-field-is-about-to-flip>).

It was interesting to learn that the sun's pole reversal occurs on an 11-year cycle and coincides with the approximate peak of the sun-spot cycle which affects HF radio propagation. "It looks like we are no more than three or four months away from a complete field reversal," said the solar physicist. The same web-site has a YouTube - type video that goes into greater detail with lots of graphics. (I had to switch to the actual YouTube site to get the sound loud enough to hear on my computer.) This article was also picked up on a National Geographic website: (<http://news.national-geographic.com/news/2013/08/130807-sun-magnetic-field-reversal-space-weather/>), and the ARRL's website: (<http://www.arrl.org/news/the-sun-is-about-to-flip>). The National Geographic web article also mentions that the Earth's magnetic field reverses on an average of every 200 to 300 thousand years and that we may be as close as 2000 years away from Earth's next reversal. ARRL's article highlights that the solar max marked by the sun's pole reversal may occur as twin peaks with the second peak coming in 2014. This may be due to the uneven reversal that occurs in the North and South hemispheres of the sun. The NASA article states, "The sun's north pole has already changed sign, while the south pole is racing to catch up," Scherrer said. "Soon, however, both poles will be reversed, and the second half of solar max will be underway."

Another aspect of the solar pole reversal is its effect on the induced "current sheet" which is a giant disc of induced space current 10,000 km thick that extends out beyond Pluto. The current flux is low in outer space, 1×10^{-10} amp/m², but is enough to provide important protection from cosmic rays. During a solar pole reversal this current sheet becomes folded and the earth with a 12,700 km diameter can make multiple passes through the current sheet. Apparently this "can stir up stormy space weather around our planet." I suppose this means that the A_p and K propagation indices giving the effect of solar particles on earth's magnetic field can be increased as earth passes through the current sheet.

Reading about all these effects on HF propagation got me to thinking about propagation prediction software. The website: (<http://www.stroobandt.com/propagation/software.html>) has some interesting information about VOACAP (Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program).

This is a free program based on an earlier FORTRAN program IONCAP that was developed at government expense. Well, for now I will have to add an investigation of this software to my list of unfinished (actually unstarted) plans for station improvement.

I am looking forward to our next meeting on September 5.

Archie Hill W5AG
AARA President

Another Go-Kit Day

By Herman Campbell KN5GRK

On Saturday, August 31, 2013, the "Go-Kit Gang" gathered at Ed Roy's WA5TNK farm between Sunset and Arnaudville around 0830 and set up their portable stations. Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP operated on different digital modes using FLDIGI. Glen is getting very versed in using this program and has been a big help as a "Elmer" to a group of local hams.

If you are not familiar with the FLDIGI program, you might want to give it a try. There are some programs developed that work inside FLDIGI. That allow you to send messages in different form formats that can be saved and printed out.

I managed to receive a couple of messages sent by Glen without any problems using Thor 50x1 mode.

The group that met at Ed's farm were: Glen KF5FNP, Ed WA5TNK, Dave N4ELM, Mark W5GTI, Fred W5MLE, Ric KF5KEL and Jackie KF5PCH. Those working from their QTH were: Larry KE5KJD, Nick KE5MWX and Herman KN5GRK. I am not sure at this time if there were any others involved in this event.

This is a good way to hone your EMCOM training by having a session every month or so. Next time just go out and visit, you don't have to setup or operate, just observe, I think you will learn a few things and maybe get some questions answered you may have.

73 Herman KN5GRK

AARA September General Meeting

The AARA General Meeting will be held on September 5, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Red Cross building, 101 N. Pat Street, Scott, Louisiana.
VE Testing at 6:00 PM.

DATES TO REMEMBER**GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday, September 5th @ 7:00 PM
Red Cross Building - 101 N. Pat St.
Scott, LA

HAMFEST SCHEDULE**CLARC Hamfest**

Pineville, LA - October 19, 2013

Local 2-Meter Nets**Sunday**

Opelousas Area ARA Net 7:00 PM
147.150 PL 103.5 Carencro, LA

Monday

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM
146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Tuesday

Acadiana ARES Net 7:00 PM
145.370 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Wednesday

Bodie's Memorial DX Net
145.410 New Iberia, LA

Thursday

Kid's Net 7:00 PM
146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

AARA OFFICERS 2013-2014

President - Archie Hill W5AG
archibal@bellsouth.net

Vice Pres. - Jess Gillion KF5LUL
Secretary - Sandy Leblanc KE5KJF

Treasurer - Joy Breaux N5YCS

BOARD MEMBERS

Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD

Glen Thibodeaux - KF5FNP

Nick Romero - KE5MWX

Abigail Wilson - KF5BEW

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Herman Campbell KN5GRK

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The **LARC** is published monthly by
the:

**Acadiana Amateur Radio
Association**

P. O. Box 51174

Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-1174

Regular meetings 1st Thursday
of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the
American Red Cross Building, 101
North Pat Street, Scott, LA

AUGUST 2013 AARA MEETING MINUTES

August 1, 2013

CLUB MEETING:

- The AARA President, Archie Hill W5AG opened the meeting. Herman KN5GRK led the prayer and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 19 members and 2 visitors in attendance.

Minutes: The July minutes were not read as they were posted in the August LARC. On motion by Tom Dischler W5OHJ, seconded by Jess Gillion KF5LUL the minutes were accepted as published.

Budget: Joy Breaux N5YCS gave the Treasurer's Report. On motion by Jess Gillion KF5LUL, seconded by Galen Wilson KF5BET, the Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. The Financial Report is not published in the LARC; any member wanting a copy can contact Joy N5YCS.

Old Business: Archie Hill W5AG will order the 10 meter and 80 meter band pass filters this month along with 10 barrel connectors and 3 male to male connectors. Archie will also bring a \$100.00 check to the City of Rayne as a "**Thank You**" for the use of the Green Room for our Field Day 2013.

Jess Gillion KF5LUL gave an update from the Repeater Committee. Members of the committee were Jess Gillion KF5LUL, Chairman; Keith Hendricks K5UFO, Fred Marshall W5MLE, Nick Pugh K5QXJ, Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP, Nick Romero KE5MWX, and Charlie Morrison N5WE.

After evaluation, it was recommended that we replace the power supply, controller and the repeater. It was also recommended that we use a local vendor to get a Vertex repeater. It will be supported locally and we would have local maintenance. The cost would be \$2,000.

There being no lightning protection on the antenna, it was suggested that we add \$150.00 to the total cost. On motion by Jess Gillion KF5LUL, seconded by Charlie Morrison N5WE, the members voted on spending \$2,150.00 for the repeater set-up.

Calvin Begnaud KD5JCT and Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP spoke about the Go-Kit Day at Home Depot for the Hurricane Preparedness Day.

Jess Gillion KF5LUL mentioned that we are all set for the Cajun Cup communications. The Cajun Cup 10K Run race will be on November 9, 2013 downtown Lafayette. Participants will receive a nice "T" shirt and free refreshments.

Sandy LeBlanc KE5JKF was given permission to buy a 30 cup coffee-maker.

Chris Wotipka KD5QYV, of the Boy Scouts, spoke about the radio badge for Winter Camp. They will build a "cantenna" out of a Pringles Potato Chip can. He also mentioned the "Raspberry Pi" which is a credit-card-sized single-board computer developed in the UK by the Raspberry Pi Foundation with the intention of promoting the teaching of basic computer science in schools.

Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP spoke about the Go-Kit "pre-checkout" Day in Avery Island at the Tabasco Plant.

Rick Breaux N5RLM mentioned that we needed to have a Board Meeting to add the line item to the Budget for the repeater set-up under Equipment. On motion by Tom Dischler W5OHJ, seconded by Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF, it was approved to add the line item to the Budget, one opposed Greg Dolan K5LFT.

Archie Hill, W5AG, closed the General Meeting and convened the Board Meeting. Board members present: Archie Hill W5AG, Jess Gillion KF5LUL, Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF, Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD, Joy Breaux N5YCS, Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP, Nick Romero KE5MWX and Herman Campbell KN5GRK.

Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP made a motion, seconded by Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD, to amend the Budget under Equipment to include a line item for the new repeater in the amount of \$2,150.00. The addition of the line item was approved.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,
Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF
AARA Secretary 2013

Amateur Radio Club of Central Louisiana Hamfest



Date: October 19, 2013

Time: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Place: Pineville Community
Center
708 Main St.
Pineville, Louisiana

Vendors: Regal-Brown, Hub City,
& Palmetto Antenna

Main Prizes:

- 1st - Icom IC-7000 HF-VHF-UHF
all mode transceiver
- 2nd - Icom V-8000 VHF Mobile
- 3rd - Icom IC-V80 Sport VHF HT
- 4th - Canned Ham

Special Drawing:

\$300 Cash Prize - Separate tickets.

Tickets for prizes and the cash prize
are still now available.

For tickets contact:

Scott Wren, KD5DFL
kd5dfl@suddenlink.net.

Website:

<http://www.clarc.us/>

New Amateur Radio Lunch Get-Together



What: Amateur Radio Lunch
Get-Together

Where: *Golden Wok*
1809 West Pinhook Road
Lafayette, LA 70508
(337) 593-8222

When: Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

Who: Anyone and Everyone
73,
Pat ND5C
(214) 850-6439 (cell)

Golden Corral - Lunch Bunch

What: Lunch Bunch

Where: Golden Corral
3110 Ambassador Caffery
Pkwy.
Lafayette, LA 70506
(337) 993-7858

When: Every Wednesday 10:45
a.m. til 1:00 pm

Who: All ham operators
Talk-in: 146.820 pl 103.5

Sicily's Ultimate Italian Buffet

What: Evening Buffet

Where: Sicily's Buffet
Albertson Parkway & Hwy
90
Broussard, LA 70518
(337) 839-2111

When: 3rd Saturday of each month
6:00 p.m.

Who: All ham operators
Talk-in: 145.410 no pl

A private area is usually reserved for this gathering. Contact Mel Simon WD5CAE in about four days in advance to let him know if you plan to attend to get a general head count. Mel hangs out on the 145.410 machine.

Vanity Call Sign Fee Goes Up August 23!

The new FCC regulatory fee of \$16.10 to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will go into effect Friday, August 23, when the new regulatory fee schedule will appear in the Federal Register. Earlier this year the FCC had proposed upping the vanity call sign fee from its current \$15 to \$15.20, but in the Report and Order in MD Docket 13-140, released August 12, the Commission offered no explanation for the higher fee.

In another change, starting in FY 2014, the FCC will require that all regulatory fee payments be made electronically. The R&O ordered a broad schedule of new fees and waived the usual 30-day waiting period following Federal Register publication, because it feared there would not be time for FY 2013 fees to become effective before the start of the new federal fiscal year on October 1.

Celebrating 145 Years of Tabasco Brand Pepper Sauce "Spicing up the World"!

K5D



K5D

On Saturday September 28, and Sunday September 29, 2013, the **Lafayette Amateur Radio Repeater Club** will sponsor a Special Event Station originating from the home of Tabasco Brand Pepper Sauce, Avery Island, Louisiana.

The call we will be using will be "**K5DR**" and we will be operating on 21.280, 14.280, 14.070, 7.280 MHz. We plan to operate from 9:00 AM Central Time Saturday until 4:00 PM Central Time Sunday.

We plan to operate phone and CW on most bands. At certain times we will operate QRP phone & CW, Digital BPSK31, using NVIS Antenna for contacts in TX, AR, & MS, and have a Collins gear hour on Sunday Sept. 29th. Check out the DX Cluster and QRZ.com for specific frequencies, times, modes & equipment.

For a QSL card sent from the Avery Island Post Office, send a SASE to: QSL Manager - Glen Thibodeaux P.O. Box 92110, Lafayette, LA 70509. E-mail: kf5fnp@cox.net

This is the Guys & Gals that participated in the test setup on the grounds of the McIlhenny Tabasco Plant on Avery Island, Louisiana on Saturday August 3, 2013.



Top Row Left to Right: Nick KE5MWX, Glen KF5FNP, Mark W5GTI. Ladies, Left to Right: Angela, Paula KF5CNS - **Bottom Row Left to Right:** David N4ELM, & James KF5RBW

JUNE 2013 ACADIANA AREA 2 METER NET REPORTS

NET	SESSIONS:	TOTAL CHECK-INS:	TOTAL TRAFFIC:	TOTAL TIME: Minutes	Net Manager
OAARC Net - Opelousas Area Amateur Radio Club	4	40	Ø	45	N5LRZ Ray
AARA Monday Night Net	3	55	Ø	121	W5GTI Mark
Acadiana ARES Net	4	30	Ø	48	N5LRZ Ray
Bodie's Memorial DX Net	4	38	3	78	N5LRZ Ray
Kid's Thursday Night Net	4	36	1	55	KF5BEW Abbi KF5FYS Kendra

There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.
- C.S. Lewis

August VE Test Session Results

On Thursday August 1, 2010 the following VE test session took place.

William K. Gutekunst KF5VZK of Lake Charles, Louisiana upgraded to General Class.

VE's assisting the session were: Greg Dolan K5LFT, Archie Hill W5AG, Galen Wilson KF5BET, Tom Dischler W5OHJ, Rick Breaux N5RLM, Mark Saltzman W5GTI and Charlie Morrison N5WE.

New Delta Division Vice Director Named

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, has appointed Ed Hudgens, WB4RHQ, of Nashville, Tennessee, as Delta Division Vice Director. Hudgens will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Glen Clayton, W4BDB, who stepped down August 1 for health reasons. Hudgens, who recently retired after a career in electrical engineering, will serve the remainder of the term that expires January 1, 2015. The Delta Division's Director is David

AARA



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

9/06	STEVE	KF5VH
9/13	FRED	W5MLE
9/15	LANCE	KF5NZB
9/17	AJ	KF5THS
9/17	JAMES	KF5RBW
9/18	DALTON	N5HVV
9/19	MELVIN	WD5CAE
10/01	CHERYL	KE5IBM
10/04	GREG	K5LFT
10/05	TOM	W5OHJ

Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership causing some names to be missing from the list.

Go-Kit Day Pictures - Ed Roy's Farm - 8/31/2013



Dave - N4ELM



Ric - KF5KEL



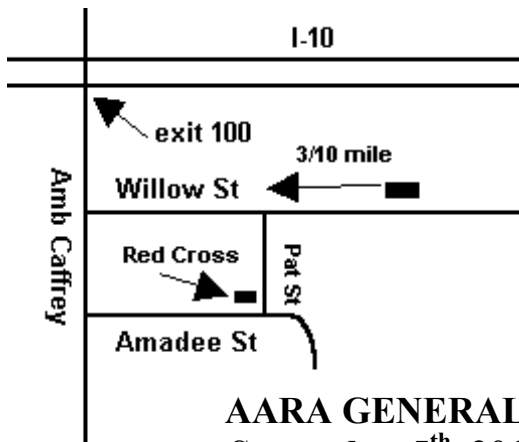
What Have You Done In Ham Radio Lately?



Mark - W5GTI

Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.
P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, LA 70505-1174

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



Share the Fun - Bring a
Friend to be a HAM !

AARA GENERAL MEETING
September 5th, 2013 - 7:00 PM
VE TESTING TONIGHT - 6:00 PM
Red Cross Building, 101 N. Pat St., Scott, LA
Lunch Bunch - Each Wednesday 10:45 AM – 2:00 PM
Golden Corral - Amb. Caffery - Lafayette, LA
Check 146.820 PL 103.5 - repeater for info.

COMPLIMENTARY
ISSUE



Green Chili Corn Muffins

Recipe from Paula Deen - pauladeen.com

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 1/4 cups cornmeal | 1 cup sour cream |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | 4 oz. chopped green chilies |
| 2 tsp. baking soda | 1/2 cup canola oil |
| 1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese | 2 eggs slightly beaten |
| 8 oz. can cream-style corn | |

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Grease miniature muffin tins with vegetable oil or cooking spray.

In a small bowl combine the cornmeal, salt, and baking powder. Add the cheese, corn, sour cream, and chilies. (I stirred in minced jalapeno). Stir until lightly combined. Add the oil and eggs and stir until everything is just combined. Do not over mix. The batter will be very stiff. Place about 1/2 tablespoon of batter into each muffin cup.

Bake for 18 to 20 minutes.

Make 48 miniature muffins.

Note: I add a bit of sugar and I also use plain yellow cornmeal, and they have always turned out fine with me.

Send your favorite recipes to:
Herman Campbell KN5GRK
kn5grk@lusfiber.net



FCC Information Service

Toll Free (WATS) for Amateur Radio license inquiries about new/vanity call signs: 888-225-5322. This will connect you the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at: 202-414-1250 or:

ulscomm@fcc.gov.

FCC Website:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

New call sign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-3000.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>

The mailing address to the FCC is:

Federal Communications Commission,
1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245